



Rainford Urban District Council

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1937.

S. C. GAWNE, M.D., B.S.Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1937.

Chairman of the Council: Col. J. T. Hopgood, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman of the Council: Robert Webster, Esq.

Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee:

Frank Winstanley, Esq.

Vice-Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee:

William Foster, Esq.

Members:

James Eden, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.

George Berryman, Esq.

James Birchall, Esq.

Robert Fairclough, Esq.

F. Wilson Grundy, Esq.

Sam Lewis, Esq.

John Molyneux, Esq.

Peter Powers, Esq.

Frederick C. Rawlinson, Esq.

Walter Smith, Esq.

Ben Stockley, Esq.

Clerk to the Council: Geo. Walker.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health:

O. L. Prosser, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (resigned 30th September, 1937)

S. C. Gawne, M.D. (State Medicine), B.S.Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

D.C.H., D.P.H. (appointed 1st October, 1937).

Sanitary Inspector:

E. S. Rosbotham, A.R.S.I., A.F.A.S.

Council Offices,
Rainford.

Sirs,

I have the honour to submit to you the forty-seventh Annual Report on the health of Rainford, being the report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

The Report has been drawn up on the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health in Circular 1650, dated 4th October, 1937.

The District continues to expand and building operations have progressed, particularly in that part nearest St. Helens.

Altogether 10 new Council houses and 25 privately built houses were erected throughout Rainford during 1937.

The Vital Statistics shew a fall in the birth rate and the death rate also is lower than that of last year.

The year was marked by an increased incidence of diphtheria and scarlet fever but fortunately no fatalities occurred from these diseases.

The Sanitary condition of the District generally has improved, and the conversion of the remaining privy middens within the sewered area is to be undertaken.

There is need for more routine visiting to satisfy the Ministry's requirements and to see that the various Acts administered by the Sanitary Authority are being fulfilled. The Council may well consider that some of these duties might be allocated to a person other than the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor who would then be released to perform work more technical and administrative in nature.

Building extension at the Council Offices is being undertaken to provide for a School Clinic and Child Welfare Centre, which it is hoped may be opened during 1938.

Close co-operation exists between the County Council and District Health Authorities and their officials, and the fact that your Medical Officer of Health is also Assistant County Medical Officer of Health aids in the exchange of information and facilitates the work done in both capacities.

On the 30th September, 1937, my predecessor, Dr. O. L. Prosser, relinquished office owing to the increasing pressure of his private work, and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful thanks to him for the assistance he gave me on taking over his duties.

My thanks are also due to my fellow officials and members of the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. C. GAWNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Area (acres) | 5,877 |
| Estimated Population, mid-year 1937 | 3,956 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books | 989 |
| Rateable Value | £14,180 |
| Product of a penny rate | £59 |

I.—PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Rainford is situated North of, and about a mile from, the County Borough of St. Helens. The Rural District of Whiston lies on the Southern and Western boundaries, on the East are the Urban Districts of Upholland and Billinge, and on the North is the Rural District of West Lancashire.

The geological formation, generally, consists of black loamy soil, with a sandy subsoil of considerable depth. In the East and West there are two large areas of peat under which lie coal measures.

The Urban District comprises a principal centre known as "The Village," which extends along the main road from St. Helens to Ormskirk for about one mile, whilst there are further groups of houses at Rainford Junction, at Crank, and a more recently developed nucleus nearer St. Helens, between Hill Top and the boundary.

The District is rural in character, and agriculture is the chief industry. There are, however, other important industries which provide employment. Of these, the chief are Pottery Making, Building, Mining, Sand-Washing, Tar works, and Poultry Farming.

The manufacture of clay smoking pipes has been carried on in Rainford for about 200 years and was formerly the principal industry. At one period there were 28 works, but the trade has declined and there is now only one works engaged in the business.

Unemployment.—The average number of unemployed during 1937, as shewn by figures taken each Monday, was as follows:—
Men, 88; Women, 12.

II.—VITAL STATISTICS.

| | M. | F. | Total |
|-------------------------------|----|----|-------|
| Live Births:—Legitimate | 25 | 19 | 44 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| | — | — | — |
| Totals | 26 | 23 | 49 |
| | — | — | — |

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 13.4.

Still Births:—M. 2, F. 1; Total: 3.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 57.

Deaths:—M. 23, F. 17; Total: 40.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population:
11.0.

Death Rate per 1,000 adjusted to correspond for age and sex
distribution with England and Wales as a whole: 12.3.

Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions:

Number of women dying from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth:—

| | Deaths. | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. |
|--------------------------------|---------|---|
| From puerperal sepsis | nil | — |
| From other puerperal causes... | nil | — |
| | — | — |
| Totals | nil | — |
| | — | — |

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

| | M. | F. | Total |
|--------------------|----|----|-------|
| Legitimate | 6 | — | 6 |
| Illegitimate | — | 2 | 2 |
| | — | — | — |
| Totals | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| | — | — | — |

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

| | |
|---|-----|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 163 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 136 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... | 400 |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 4 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | nil |
| Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) | nil |

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate for the mid-1937 population was 3,635. This is an increase of 72 on the estimated population for 1936, which was 3,563.

The excess of the number of births over deaths represents the natural increase, and amounted to 9.

It is probable that the average of persons per house is about four, this figure being 0.5 less than the actual figure at the census of 1931. On this assumption I estimate that the population now would be about 3,956.

Births.

49 births occurred during the year. Male births numbered 26 and the female 23, representing a proportion of 1,130 male to 1,000 female children born.

Illegitimate births numbered 5 and formed 10.2 per cent. of the total.

Deaths.

The figures given under "Deaths" relate to the net deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General, and the actual number assignable to Rainford is 40. This gives a death rate of 11 per 1,000 of the resident population.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT, 1937.

| Causes of Death.— | Male | Female | Total |
|---|------|--------|-------|
| Influenza | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Cancer | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Heart disease | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Other circulatory diseases | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Other digestive diseases | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Congenital debility and premature birth | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Senility | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Other Violence | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Other defined diseases | 4 | 2 | 6 |

VITAL STATISTICS.

Certain vital statistics for the four decennial periods 1891-1900, 1901-1910, 1911-1920 and 1921-1930, together with those for each of the years 1931 to 1936, are given below:—

| Per 1,000 of estimated population | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|--------|---------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|---|
| Period | Live birth-rate | Crude death-rate | Death-rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system | Cancer | Enteric fever | | Diphtheria | | Diarrhoea* | Rate of deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births |
| | | | | | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1891-1900 | 30.1 | 15.5 | 1.19 | | 104 | 12 | 27 | 15 | 9 | 110 |
| 1901-1910 | 30.5 | 13.0 | 0.32 | | 76 | 11 | 17 | 5 | 13 | 101 |
| 1911-1920 | 24.4 | 13.3 | 0.41 | | 7 | — | 26 | 7 | 9 | 75 |
| 1921-1930 | 18.2 | 10.5 | 0.26 | | 10 | 2 | 41 | 2 | 1 | 72 |
| 1931 | 16.2 | 10.2 | 0.85 | 0.57 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 52 |
| 1932 | 16.6 | 7.7 | nil | 2.34 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 51 |
| 1933 | 13.1 | 9.2 | 0.83 | 1.40 | — | — | 3 | — | — | 42 |
| 1934 | 15.3 | 13.0 | 0.27 | 1.39 | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | 72 |
| 1935 | 17.5 | 10.8 | 0.83 | 0.55 | — | — | — | — | — | 31 |
| 1936 | 14.3 | 12.9 | nil | 1.96 | — | — | — | — | — | 58 |
| 1937 | 13.4 | 11.0 | nil | 1.10 | — | — | — | — | — | 163 |

* Prior to 1916, deaths at all ages are included in these figures; from 1916 only those under 2 years of age.

III.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Specimens are sent for examination to the Bacteriological Department of the Wigan Royal Infirmary. Six throat swabs were taken and examined for the diphtheria bacillus which was found to be present in one swab.

Ambulance Facilities.

Arrangements have been made with the fever hospitals mentioned below for the provision of an ambulance to remove patients suffering from infectious disease. These arrangements work satisfactorily.

Nursing.

The district is served by two members of the District Nursing Association.

Hospitals.

Arrangements have been made with the Ormskirk Urban District Council whereby cases of infectious disease may be treated at the Ormskirk Isolation Hospital at a cost of 9/- per day per case, including ambulance one way.

In the case of Smallpox a retaining fee of £10 per annum is paid to the Corporation of Liverpool, whose Health Committee has agreed to take into its Isolation Hospital at Fazakerley all cases of Smallpox at the rate of 15/- per day per patient, together with the cost of conveyance by the City's ambulance.

For General Hospital Accommodation cases may go to the Lancashire County Council Public Assistance Hospital at Whiston, where arrangements have also been made for Ante-Natal cases, and for the admission of maternity cases.

Voluntary hospitals are available in St. Helens and in Liverpool.

Much use is made of the various hospital facilities.

The Child Welfare work is carried out by the County Council, and a Welfare Centre has been established at the Council Offices, sessions being held every Tuesday morning. Advice regarding feeding and the general health of infants and toddlers is given by the Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, assisted by the County Council Health Visitor and School Nurse. Free milk, Cod Liver Oil, Malt and Oil are allowed to neecessitous cases.

The Midwives Acts are administered by the County Council. There are two midwives resident in the district.

There are no Nursing Homes in the area.

Institutional provision for mothers or children has been arranged by the County Council at the Whiston Public Assistance Hospital.

A Health Visitor is provided by the County Council and she is also School Nurse, an arrangement which works very well in this area.

Arrangements for Child Life Protection are made by the County Council.

The County Council have established an Orthopædic Centre at Ormskirk which serves the Rainford area. Sessions are held weekly and a surgeon attends monthly for consultation.

IV.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Water for the Rainford District is obtained from the St. Helens Corporation under a 25 years agreement dated July, 1934, which provides for a maximum supply of 150,000 gallons per day. This amount is not to be exceeded without consent of the Corporation. The charge has been fixed at 10d. per 1,000 gallons but is subject to revision at five-yearly intervals.

The District is fed by two mains, 6 inches and 4 inches in diameter respectively. These enter at different points on the Southern boundary. The 6 inch main, laid in 1934 to replace a 3 inch main, at a cost of £2,000, follows the main road and supplies the Village Area. The 4 inch main laid in Crank Road supplies Crank Reservoirs, which are situated at the highest point of the district, 300 feet above ordnance datum.

These reservoirs, two in number, have a capacity of 97,000 gallons and 310,000 gallons respectively, the latter being constructed in 1931 at a cost of £2,410. The total capacity of the reservoirs is therefore 407,000 gallons, which is approximately equivalent to five days' supply.

All the houses in the district are supplied from the mains with the exception of eight supplied by wells and one from a spring. Six of the eight houses can be supplied from the mains should the private supply prove to be unsatisfactory.

The proximity of wells to cultivated land and other sources of pollution render their regular inspection necessary. It is advisable that samples should be taken for bacteriological and chemical examination from time to time.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Prior to the year 1931 there was no sewerage system in the district, but in that year a scheme for the village was carried out at a cost of £16,701. A separate system is employed, and the sewage is discharged by gravitation through a 12 inch outfall sewer at the Rookery works where it is pumped to the required level for treatment.

The Rookery works comprises a pumping station with three electrically operated and automatically controlled pumps, sedimentation tanks, sprinkler beds, humus tanks and under-drained sludge beds. The effluent discharges into the Rainford Brook. There are 356 houses connected to sewers in the village and 107 houses for which sewers are available, but not connected up.

In 1934 another sewerage scheme was evolved for the St. Helens Road area: 9 inch sewers extend between Hill Top and the Windle Boundary where recent building has been proceeding. Here again, a separate system is in use, the sewage discharging by gravitation at the Outfall works at Berrington's Lane. These works consist of a sedimentation tank, sprinkler bed, humus tank and sludge bed. A petrol pump is provided to pump sludge from the sedimentation tank to the sludge bed. The effluent discharges into Boundary Brook, a tributary of Rainford Brook. There are 47 houses in this area, all of which are connected to the sewer.

Both sewage disposal works continue to work efficiently and the effluent is of a very good quality.

Rivers and Streams.

Rainford Brook and Randle Brook with their tributaries flow through the district and observations are made from time to time to detect pollution. Considerable pollution of the Avenue Brook by tar was noted and representation was made to the works responsible that suitable measures be taken to abate the nuisance.

Closet Accommodation.

Notwithstanding the provision of sewers, there still remained on December 31st 125 houses within the sewered area employing the primitive and unhygienic privy midden. Steps are now being taken to secure the conversion of these privies under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and it is hoped the conversions will be completed during 1938.

Outside the sewered area the majority of the houses are provided with the privy midden type of closet accommodation

save in the new Council Houses where water closets and septic tanks have been installed.

The sewage from the 42 houses comprising Hardings Row passes into a catchpit and thence into a tributary of Randle Brook. The question of the provision of a sewerage scheme for this sparsely populated area cannot at present be entertained.

CONVERSIONS FROM PRIVIES TO W.C.'s FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS ARE AS FOLLOWS:—

| | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1931 | ..... | 0 |
| 1932 | ..... | 0 |
| 1933 | ..... | 0 |
| 1934 | ..... | 0 |
| 1935 | ..... | 51 |
| 1936 | ..... | 34 |
| 1937 | ..... | 62 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | 147 |
| | | <hr/> |

Public Cleansing.

The importance of a system of public cleansing is recognised. The Council have arranged by contract with a farmer for the collection and disposal of refuse for the whole district. Both horse and cart and motor lorry are used.

There are 408 moveable ashbins and 473 privy middens in use in the district. The ashbins are emptied weekly and the privies once a month.

Part of the bin refuse is being used by the Council on the Recreation Ground where controlled tipping is in operation.

Reference has already been made to the disadvantages of the privy midden. The removal of refuse from this type of receptacle leads to soiling of yard surfaces. In many cases wheeling of the refuse in barrows through narrow passages to the road is necessary and most unsatisfactory. Many of the older privy middens extend below ground level and hold foul water, whilst others leak on to the yard surfaces.

It is pleasing to note that there have been 64 conversions from privy middens to bins during the year.

There are few cesspools in the district and they are situated in outlying sparsely populated parts. Emptying is done under contract by the contractor who attends to refuse collection, and the contents are used for manure. A special tumbler cart is not employed.

The following table shews the closet and refuse accommodation at the end of 1937:—

**CLOSET AND REFUSE ACCOMMODATION,
DECEMBER 31st, 1937.**

Total No. of Houses in District: 989.

No. of Houses with:—

| W.C.s. | | Privies | | Pails | | Privy Bins Ashpits Middens | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----|-----|
| Within Sewered Area | Out of Sewered Area | Within Sewered Area | Out of Sewered Area | Within Sewered Area | Out of Sewered Area | | | |
| 387 | 81 | 125 | 382 | 1 | 13 | | | |
| 468 | | 507 | | 14 | | 468 | 10 | 481 |

Shops.

The Shops Act, 1934, is enforced by the County Council. The provisions of the Act, however, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences are administered by the Urban District Council.

Most of the shops are attached to a dwelling-house, there being few lock-up shops. The requirements with regard to ventilation are generally satisfactory, but to maintain a regular temperature in a shop occupied as a dwelling-house is a difficult problem.

With regard to sanitary conveniences, in most cases the convenience in the house is used by the shop workers who are usually members of the family. The Shops Act requires that there shall be provided and maintained in the shop suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences for the use of persons employed in or about the shop. The Sanitary Authority, however, is authorised to grant a certificate of exemption where it is considered that sufficient sanitary conveniences are conveniently available.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public within the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There has been no evidence of the infestation of houses with bed bugs within the district during the year. In the event of bugs being discovered the houses and furniture, etc., are treated with Zaldecide.

When tenants are removed into new Council Houses due measures are taken for the detection of bed bugs.

V.—SCHOOLS.

The school children in the Rainford Urban District are inspected by the School Medical Department of the Lancashire County Council. The fact that the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health responsible for this work is also Medical Officer of Health for the District is effective from the point of view of public health administration. Not only is a full knowledge of the people and the needs of the district of great help at the examination of the children but prompt action can be taken in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease.

Close co-operation exists between the medical officer and the teachers and much use is made of the returns of sick children forwarded by the School Attendance Officer each week.

The following is a list of schools in the District:—

| School. | School No. | No. of children on roll. |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Bushey Lane | 29/6 | 110 (38 infants). |
| Corpus Christi | 29/7 | 45 (16 infants). |
| Crank Hill | 29/8 | 64 (20 infants). |
| Rainford C.E. | 29/9 | 237 (61 infants). |

During the past year notable improvements have been effected in the sanitary condition of the schools.

Improvements carried out in the year 1937 are as follows:—

Bushey Lane.

A conversion from pail closets to the water closet system with septic tank has been effected, and the school now possesses ample sanitary accommodation. This has been a most satisfactory undertaking. It is hoped in the course of 1938 to augment the washing accommodation.

Corpus Christi.

Re-decoration of the premises has been carried out. Facilities for drying are lacking in the cloak rooms.

Rainford C. of E.

Part of the school was rebuilt and extra washing accommodation provided for the Senior Girls on the upper floor. New fixed basins and a sink have also been installed on the ground floor in the girls' cloakroom, giving improved washing facilities for the junior girls. New floors have been laid in the infant department.

The Sanitary condition and Water Supply of the schools in the district are given in the following table.

| SCHOOL: | CRANK HILL C.E. | BUSHEY LANE | RAINFORD C.E. | CORPUS CHRISTI |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------|
| Lighting | Electric. | Electric. | Electric. | Electric. |
| Washing Accommodation | In porches. 4 fixed basins, taps over, 1 sink, tap over. | In porches, 2 fixed basins, taps over. | 6 fixed basins, taps over, 2 sinks, taps over, 2 mov- able bowls with jug. | 4 basins, taps over. |
| Water Supply ... | Public Main. | Public Main. | Public Main. | Public Main. |
| Cloak Room | In porches. | In porches. | Separate. | In porches. |
| Provision for Drying Coats... | Hot pipes. | Hot pipes. | Hot pipes. | No heating. |
| Closet Accommodation | Trough closet, 5 seats. | 10 water closets. | Trough closets, 8 seats. 1 w.c. for teachers. | 8 w.c.'s. |
| Feet from School. | 60. | 20. | Adjoining. | 20. |
| Drainage | Septic tank. | Septic tank. | Sewer. | Sewer. |

School Closure.

During the year 1937 it was found necessary to close the Crank Hill C.E. School from February 24th to March 15th owing to the prevalence of chicken-pox.

Health Services for Schools.

The County Council is responsible for the provision of School Clinics. There is at present no such Clinic in the District, and children are obliged to go to Orrell or Ormskirk for treatment, involving the parents and children in considerable loss of time owing to transport difficulties.

Plans for the establishment of special premises to be equipped as a School Clinic and Child Welfare Centre have now been passed. The Clinic, which will adjoin the Council Offices, and will, it is hoped, be completed by September 30th, 1938, should prove of much service and benefit for the inspection and treatment of children suffering from minor ailments, eye and ear defects and dental caries.

School Feeding.

Milk is supplied to the schools through arrangements made by the County Council, and in necessitous cases the children receive it free. It is supplied in bottles with a cardboard top

and consumed through a straw. This method saves time, is hygienic and ensures that the contents of the bottle are taken slowly. The teachers report that most children shew improvement both physically and mentally when they are supplied with milk in school.

Samples of milk delivered to each school are taken quarterly for pathological examination for tuberculosis at the request of the County Council. The samples taken in 1937 all proved satisfactory.

The following table shews the number of children receiving milk in the Rainford Schools, December, 1937.

| Name of School. | Percentage | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| | Free | Paying | Total on Roll receiving milk. |
| Bushey Lane | 4 | 22 | 148 |
| Crank Hill C.E. | 5 | 30 | 64 |
| Rainford Village C.E. | 24 | 105 | 237 |
| Corpus Christi | 6 | 5 | 61 |
| Totals | 39 | 162 | 510 |
| | | | 39.4% |

VI.—HOUSING.

The total number of inhabited houses in the district at the end of 1937 was 989. A good general standard of housing is maintained though many houses exist with small windows, dampness and poor provision for food storage. The structure is of brick and the ages vary up to 200 years. In the older property porous bricks and the absence of a damp-proof course are frequent causes of dampness. Endeavour is made to carry out house to house inspection in the district though the staff available is limited. There are instances where repairs and structural alterations are necessary to maintain the premises in all respects fit for habitation. Particular consideration is being given to the Crank Hill Area where in many dwelling houses extensive repairs are urgently needed to render them fit.

The number of back-to-back houses is gradually being reduced and there now remain 38 back-to-back houses in the district. The Council's Scheme is to remove one family into a Council House and then an official representation is made under the Housing Acts which results in the conversion of the premises into a "through" house, suitable structural alterations being made. Any necessary repairs are carried out at the same time to the benefit of the occupants. During 1937 six houses have been dealt with in this way. In some cases it is difficult to obtain adequate treatment of yard surfaces with the result that broken

flags and uneven and badly draining surfaces are seen producing their worst effects in wet weather and adding to the labours of the housewife.

To cope with the problem of overcrowded families and unfit houses the Council have provided a total of 146 houses, and of these 10 were built during 1937. A further 40 will be completed early in 1938. The kind of house provided has been mainly the non-parlour three bedroom type, but bungalows have been built for aged persons, and in the present scheme a number of four-bedroomed parlour-type houses are being erected to provide for the larger families. Under the Housing Act, 1935, a complete survey was made to ascertain the extent of overcrowding and the Council are putting into effect a Scheme to deal with the problem. At the end of 1937 there were 12 dwellings overcrowded and these will be dealt with during the current year.

TABLE SHEWING NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED BY COUNCIL AND BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE DURING PAST YEARS.

| Houses built by Private Enterprise. | | | Houses built by Council. | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-----|--------------------------|-------|-----|
| | | | | | |
| 1926 | ..... | 10 | 1914 | ..... | 14 |
| 1928 | ..... | 11 | 1925 | ..... | 10 |
| 1929 | ..... | 12 | 1927 | ..... | 24 |
| 1930 | ..... | 27 | 1931 | ..... | 12 |
| 1931 | ..... | 12 | 1933 | ..... | 50 |
| 1932 | ..... | 4 | 1936 | ..... | 26 |
| 1933 | ..... | 9 | 1937 | ..... | 10 |
| 1934 | ..... | 16 | 1938 | ..... | 40 |
| 1935 | ..... | 14 | | | |
| 1936 | ..... | 31 | Total | ..... | 186 |
| 1937 | ..... | 25 | | | |
| Total | ..... | 171 | | | |

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 58
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 123
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil

| | |
|---|-----|
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 55 |
| 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:— | |
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | 55 |
| 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:— | |
| (a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936: | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 7 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) By owners | 7 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts: | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936: | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |
| (d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936: | |
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |

| | |
|--|-----|
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |
| 4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:— | |
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 12 |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | 12 |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | 70 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | Nil |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 2 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... | 14 |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | Nil |

VII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

On the 31st December, 1937, there were registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926:—

5 persons as cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk;
6 persons as cowkeepers and retail purveyors of milk;
3 persons as purveyors of milk.

There are in the District approximately 90 cows kept for dairy purposes.

28 visits were paid to dairies and cowsheds in the District during the year. In many instances lighting and ventilation are defective. In some the midden is situated close to where milking is carried out. Others are modern structures and well planned, with the result that a clean milk is produced with considerable saving of effort.

Scrupulous cleanliness in all the processes of milking and distribution is necessary to prevent contamination. Not only must the cowshed, dairy and utensils be kept scrupulously clean, but due attention should be given to the grooming and cleanliness of the cows and the milkers. Good lighting is essential if these conditions are to be fulfilled.

With regard to tuberculosis, knowledge of droplet infection has told us that adequate spacing for the animals is of importance, and in this respect it is not the cubic but the superficial area to which attention should be paid. Good standards for new cowsheds are 70 square feet and 800 cubic feet per cow.

Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughterhouses.—Bye-laws in respect of slaughterhouses were made in 1934. There are two slaughterhouses in the district, one licensed and one registered. Both are brick structures and the water supply is from the public main. In one case the drain inlet is situated inside the building, an unsatisfactory arrangement. Both premises are kept in a generally satisfactory condition. It is required that whitewashing of the walls and ceilings be carried out at least four times in every year.

Notice of Slaughtering.—The owners of the slaughterhouses have specified the days and times when slaughtering regularly takes place. In all other cases it is required that due notice should be sent to the Sanitary Inspector notifying the day and time on which slaughtering will take place.

Meat Inspection.

The following is a summary of inspection during the year.

| | Cattle (excluding Cows) | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|--|-------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Number killed | 167 | — | — | 396 | 598 |
| Number inspected | 19 | — | — | 45 | 168 |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis— | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses con- demned | 1 | — | — | Nil | Nil |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 3 | — | — | 8 | 16 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculosis | 2.4 | — | — | 17.8 | 2.7 |
| Tuberculosis only— | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses con- demned | Nil | — | — | Nil | 1 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 18 | — | — | Nil | 120 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tu- berculosis | 94.7 | — | — | Nil | 66.1 |

Adulteration, etc.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act is administered by the County Police. I am indebted to the Superintendent of Police at Widnes for the following information:—

No. of samples taken under Food and Drugs Act: 20.
All were found to be genuine.

Nutrition.

From observations made at the Clinics amongst the Rainford Mothers and School Children, there is little evidence of gross malnutrition.

Lectures dealing with nutrition have been given to mothers attending the County Council's Child Welfare Clinic.

VIII.—FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.**1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

| Premises. | Number of | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers prosecuted. |
| Factories | 7 | Nil | Nil |
| Workshops | 3 | Nil | Nil |
| Workplaces | — | | |
| Total | 10 | Nil | Nil |

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

| Particulars of Nuisances under the Public Health Acts. | Number of Defects | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|----------------------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector | No. of offences in respect of which pro- secutions were instituted |
| Want of Cleanliness | | | | |
| Want of Ventilation | | | | |
| Overcrowding | | | | |
| Want of Drainage of Floors | | | | |
| Other Nuisances | | | | |
| Insufficient or Unsuitable Sanitary accommodation | | | | |
| Offences under Factory & Workshop Acts | | | | |
| Total | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

IX.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious disease during the year has been practically limited to school children.

The main feature was an outbreak of diphtheria, which commenced in June and confined itself to school children and infant contacts. The total number of cases was 5, and all were removed to hospital for treatment. A pleasing feature of the epidemic was that no fatalities occurred.

For the treatment of diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free of charge to the medical practitioners in the district. It is of the utmost importance that parents should seek medical aid as early as possible when children contract sore throat, since in the case of diphtheria delay of a day in the administration of antitoxin may prove fatal to the patient.

Active immunisation against diphtheria has not been undertaken amongst the children of Rainford, though it is of undoubted value when efficiently carried out, and the cost thereof would be counterbalanced by the saving on the cost of hospital treatment, which is heavy.

Scarlet Fever.

Seven cases of Scarlet Fever occurred; 6 were removed to hospital. The disease presented no unusual characteristics.

Chicken-pox.

A sharp outbreak of this disease in February amongst children in the Crank Area necessitated the closing of the Crank Hill C.E. School for three weeks.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1937.

| Disease | total cases at all ages | under 1 yr. | 1- | 2- | 3- | 4- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 20- | 35- | 15- | 65 and ovr. | cases ad. to total hosp. de'ths |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Smallpox ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 7 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Diphtheria ... | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| Enteric Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Puerperal Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia ... | 4 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Erysipelas ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals ... | 16 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | 11 |

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives the notifications received during the year under the Public Health (TB) Regulations, 1930.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|----|------------------|----|--------------|----|------------------|----|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5— | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 15— | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45— | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 55— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — |

There were no deaths amongst non-notified cases of Tuberculosis during the year.

The County Council are responsible for the provision of dispensaries, sanatoria and home visiting for tuberculosis. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for residents in the Rainford District is in Hardshaw Street, St. Helens. Patients may be referred there with a note from their own doctor or by the School Medical Officer and Medical Officer in charge of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Notification of Tuberculosis is very complete and satisfactory.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the
RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT,
1937.

| | |
|--|------|
| No. of premises visited | 58 |
| No. of defects or nuisances discovered | 130 |
| No. of defects or nuisances abated | 130 |
| No. of notices served— | |
| Informal | 55 |
| Statutory | 7 |
| Legal Proceedings | None |

